

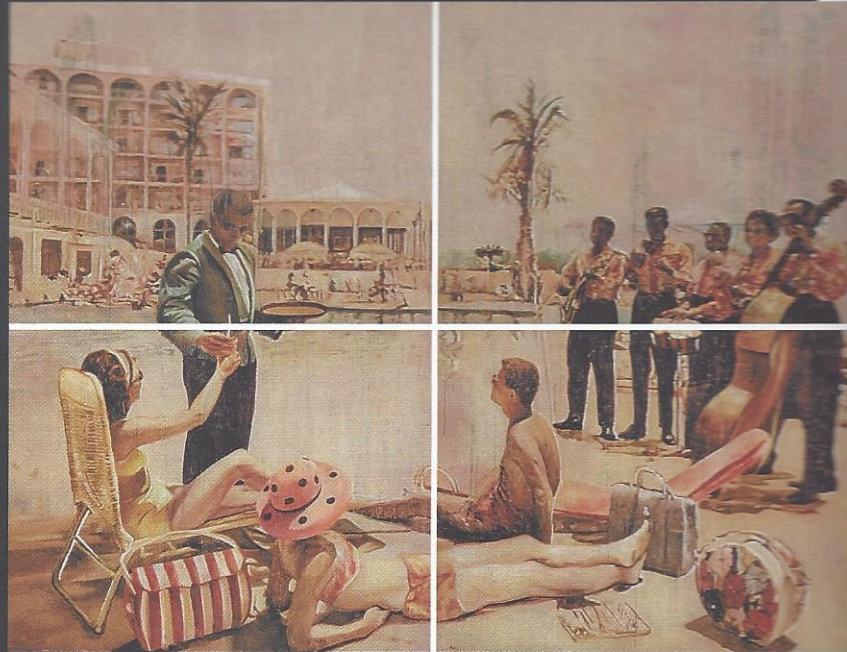
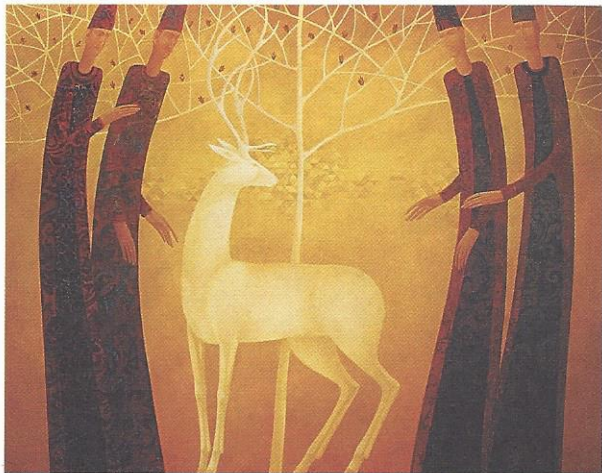
ALIF ART GALLERY

TIMUR D'VATZ: 'NEO RITUALS'

Lead Russian-Uzbeki artist Timur D'vatz's 'Neo Rituals' paintings are a modern representation of medieval art and ancient legends. Inspired by the Middle Ages, and heraldry, D'vatz revises symbols and ideals that are emblematic of late medieval tapestries, Pre-Raphaelites, Byzantine art, and Russian icons. The 'Neo Rituals' paintings are D'vatz reimagining's of ancient spiritual traditions. Reflective of D'vatz's curiosity with alchemy, the 'Neo Ritual' paintings are an exploration of the temporal existence we live in and the fantastical control we could possibly superimpose to create perfection. The artworks encompass themes of power and explore the relationships between human egos, nature and divinity. Many of the painted scenes are poetically quiet, where as others depict more primitive displays like hunting. The celestial creatures are inert and are conveyed as innocent and strong natured. In comparison, the almighty elongated figures seem to move with a sense of curiosity and potential power. The forms are elegantly placed and create a simplistic balance within the scenes. Despite the visual ease of the paintings, D'vatz's incorporation of intricate designs and mythic symbology gives way to multiple levels of interpretations and creates an air of mystery within the artwork.

Until March 17. Alif Art Gallery, DIFC, Dubai. +97143859897.

alifartgallery.ae



CARBON 12

GIL HEITOR CORTESAO: 'OUT OF SEASON'

Inspired by old photographs, advertisements and postcards from America in the 1950's and 1960's, Gil Heitor Cortesao's nostalgic holiday paintings are truly 'Out of Season.' With the tactful application of disorderly brushstrokes as an overlay, as well as the employment of washed out colour, Cortesao's vintage scenes seem to be decomposing and symbolically melting. Expressive of lively events, the captured moments seem to be drowning in time and fighting to keep a memory alive. With all future potential fading away from the unknowing figures, the paintings depict a sense of urgency which emphasises the peculiar significance of memories. The subjects in Cortesao's paintings move with fluidity and dominate each scenes; this is as opposed to his earlier works where figures were depicted as part of the background. Each artwork is set up as a montage, with four canvases pieced together to create a whole painting with two intersecting lines of space between them. This montage emphasises the multiple fragments of consciousness and perceptions of people in an instance. In his 'Out of Season' works, Cortesao uses transparent acrylic as his canvas; a building material that is referred to as 'plastic glass.' By painting on the backside of acrylic observers are literally on the outside looking in - into a world they can recognise and relate to, but never be a part of.

Until March 8. Carbon 12, Alserkal Avenue, Dubai. +9714 340 6016. carbon12dubai.com

GULF PHOTO PLUS

'EVERYDAY MIDDLE EAST'

As part of the global Instagram phenomenon that is the 'Everyday Project,' 'Everyday Middle East' presents photographs ranging from daily activity and socially relevant issues to visually stimulating landscapes. The 'Everyday Project' is a collective network of photographers who present their work on Instagram as a way of bypassing traditional pathways and connecting directly with their audience. Pioneered by photographer Peter DiCampo and writer Austin Merrill in 2012, 2014 has seen the 'Everyday Project' grow into a global network, also including: 'Everyday Africa,' 'Everyday Asia' and 'Everyday USA.' The 'Everyday Middle East' Instagram feed is increasingly growing in popularity, with more than 46,000 followers, and over 500 image uploads from subscribers in the last 8 months. This exciting group exhibition hosted by Gulf Photo Plus will feature a collection of pictures from 25 professional photographers who either reside in or frequently work in the region. Lindsay Mackenzie, the founder of the 'Everyday Middle East' feed believes that by capturing moments of our daily lives and sharing them with the public, a more genuine vision of reality may be presented. In this way, stereotypes that may cause a hindrance to the region may be readjusted. The contributing artists are renowned and award winning photographers who include members of Panos Pictures, Getty Images and the Rawiya Collective. **Until February**

26. Gulf Photo Plus, Alserkal Avenue, Dubai. +9714 380 8545. gulphotoplus.com

